

That which is claimed is:

1. A hose for transporting a fluid and which exhibits antimicrobial properties, said hose comprising  
an inner tube made from a thermoplastic polymer composition wherein said composition comprises polyvinyl chloride and an antimicrobial agent.
2. A hose according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of organic antimicrobial agents and metallic antimicrobial agents.
3. A hose according to claim 2 wherein the antimicrobial agent is metallic and comprises silver.
4. A hose according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is organic and is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols.
5. A hose according to claim 4 wherein the chlorinated phenol is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) and mixtures thereof.
6. A hose according to claim 1 further comprising a covering surrounding said first tube.
7. A hose according to claim 1 wherein said chlorinated phenol is present between about 200 ppm and about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.
8. A hose according to claim 7 wherein said chlorinated phenol is present between about 500 ppm and about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

9. A hose according to claim 1 wherein the hose is a garden hose.
10. A garden hose comprising an inner tube made from a thermoplastic polymer composition, said polymer composition comprising polyvinyl chloride and an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy).
11. A garden hose according to claim 10 wherein said antimicrobial agent is present between about 200 ppm and about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.
12. A garden hose according to claim 10 wherein said antimicrobial agent is present between about 500 ppm and about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.
13. A method of making a hose for conveying fluids and which exhibits antimicrobial properties, said method comprising the steps of:
- obtaining a thermoplastic polymer wherein said polymer comprises polyvinyl chloride,
  - combining said thermoplastic polymer with a quantity of an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic antimicrobial agents to create an antimicrobial thermoplastic polymer composition,
  - forming an inner tube from said thermoplastic polymer composition, and
  - providing an outer covering which surrounds said inner tube.
14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said antimicrobial agent is organic and is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols.
15. A method according to claim 14 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) and mixtures thereof.

16. A method according to claim 13 wherein the antimicrobial agent is metallic and comprises silver.

17. A method according to claim 15 wherein the concentration of the antimicrobial agent is between about 200 ppm and 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the polymer composition.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein concentration of the antimicrobial agent is between about 500 ppm and about 5000 ppm based upon the weight of the polymer composition.

19. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of adding connectors to the hose to form a garden hose.